

Infrastructure & Connectivity



Deniz Soyer
Division Director
Deniz.Soyer@dc.gov



Nathaniel Curry
Project Analyst
Nathaniel.Curry@dc.gov

These updates are related to the HIE connectivity and integrations as well as infrastructure tools that support the six (6) Core Capabilities of the DC Health Information Exchange. Below are some of the major accomplishments this quarter:

DC HIE Technical Integrations

We are pleased to announce a single sign on (SSO) functionality to the HIE from the DC Care Connect (DCCC) Platform is now available as of April 19! DCCC is a long-term services and supports (LTSS) web-based platform that provides care coordination and communication across the District's home and community-based LTSS provider organizations. Users can now access a patient's information in the DC HIE by simply clicking on a button within that patient's profile on the DCCC platform. This button allows for seamless communication between the DCCC platform and CRISP DC and presents the patient's information from the HIE without the need for a second patient search. DCCC users are now able to view, with a single click, encounters, health records, labs, and assessments flowing the DC HIE at the point of care.

Consent to Share Data (eConsent)

Launched in July 2022, the consent tool has served as a critical support for providers and has enabled the exchange of data protected by 42 CFR Part 2 via the DC HIE. To date, over 490 patient consents have been recorded using the tool. Various educational and engagement activities to train providers on features and the use of the consent tool were held, with targeted outreach to SUD providers.

CRISP Reporting Services (DC CRS) Population Health Analytics

DC CRS is a web-based analytics tool that enables population-level and panel-level management through clinical and administrative data for analysis and interventions. DC CRS provides reports on demographic and health system utilization, quality measure monitoring, and risk stratification to identify high-cost, high-utilization, and members with chronic disease. Users credentialed to access these reports include FQHCs, My Health GPS provider sites, hospitals, some District agency users, and MCOs. Since January 2023, the team has made enhancements to population summary reports and deployed CMS Core Set Measures for Health Homes programs, allowing providers to view both their patient panel and attributed populations. The team is currently scoping: 1) HIV population dashboard, including viral load suppression and other metrics, that will use both claims and lab data; and 2) DC HealthCheck status and pediatric utilization reports.

DC Community Resource Information Exchange (CoRIE)

DC CoRIE supports three technical functionalities through the DC HIE: 1) screening for social risks; 2) resource lookups through a centralized community inventory; and 3) referrals to appropriate community and support services. CoRIE is an interoperable approach that includes partnerships with DCPCA, DC Hospital Association, and FindHelp. The DC CoRIE initiative was spotlighted as case a study in the Office of National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) [Social Determinants of Health Information Exchange Toolkit](#). The DC CoRIE team is also a participant of the Gravity Project Pilot Affinity Group – a peer-to-peer learning forum focused on the real-world testing of Gravity terminology and technical standards. Through DC's participation, the team aims to allow users to **find services by searching for associated z-codes**. This will also enable z-code data to be viewable in a patient's social needs referral record in the HIE. You can view our presentation on the Gravity website [here](#).

Operations and Maintenance Tools - Provider Directory & Image Exchange

The *Provider Directory* displays information about health care professionals, including practice location, credentials, specialty, and affiliated organizations. The Image Exchange tool allows providers to access core and emergent images at the point of care, with the aim of improving clinical decision making and enhancing provider opportunities to prevent duplicative imaging orders/studies. There are no major updates this quarter. The team seeks to increase usage and sources of data contributing to both resources.

Technical Assistance & Outreach



Eduarda Koch
Project Manager
Eduarda.Koch@dc.gov



Maava Khan
Program Analyst
Maava.Khan@dc.gov

DHCF is leveraging American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Enhanced Funding for Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) to enhance, expand, and strengthen HCBS digital health infrastructure to support a more integrated and accessible person-centered system in the District. To that end, the DHCF team is working with District of Columbia Primary Care Association (DCPCA) and its sub-grantees – collectively known as the eHealthDC team – to deliver tailored and vendor-neutral technical assistance to HCBS providers. These are centered around three (3) broad areas:

- 1) **Program Management Services:** To identify, outreach to, and enroll eligible practices, with the goal of conducting practice readiness assessments.
- 2) **Promoting Interoperability (PI):** To identify, select, implement, and/ or optimize CEHRT/ HIT systems, with the goal of connecting to the DC HIE. Providers can earn incentives from DHCF for meeting six program milestones within one of three program tracks.
- 3) **Telehealth:** Enhance adoption and implementation of telehealth services by providing customized, practice-specific telehealth guidance, tools, and workflows, with the aim of maximizing telehealth utilization and increasing access to care. Please note that the HCBS telehealth program is not an incentive program.

We are pleased to report the following key accomplishments since January 2023:

- **Scoping and Preparation** – Finalized framework for promoting interoperability and telehealth programs, including service offerings, eligibility requirements, incentive program structure and milestones. The team continued discussions with HCBS CEHRT vendors and began onboarding processes for practices ready for HIE connectivity.
- **Participant Engagement** – Met with HCBS stakeholder groups, providers, and DC agency representatives to provide program overview, identify unique needs, and strategize on engagement approaches. This also includes conducting the first two meetings of the HCBS Stakeholder Advisory Committee.
- **Technical Assistance Monitoring** – Launched Tableau-based HCBS Digital Health Technical Assistance Program CRM to track practice assessment results and dashboards to display project status and performance.
- **HCBS Provider Organization Outreach** – The eHealthDC team has conducted outreach to 134 distinct HCBS provider organizations, including Mental Health Rehabilitation Services (MHRS), Adult Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Services (ASARS), Housing Supportive Services (HSS) providers enrolled by DHCF, and Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS).
- **HCBS PI Program Incentives** – Of the 134 organizations that the eHealthDC team have contacted, as of 4/18/23:
 - **Sixty-four (64) have met Milestone 1:** 37 MHRS, 13 ASARS, 9 HSS, and 6 LTSS provider organizations have signed a participation agreement for the program
 - **Fifty-five (55) have met Milestone 2:** 32 MHRS, 9 ASARS, 8 HSS, and 6 LTSS provider organizations have signed a scope of services and work plan
 - **Nine (9) have met Milestone 3:** 3 MHRS and 6 ASARS provider organizations have purchased new CEHRTs

The team is pleased to share that a total of **\$440,500** in incentives have been distributed to participating provider organizations! As milestone attestations for the HCBS PI Program are submitted daily, the incentives distributed are projected to continuously increase throughout the tenure of program.

Policy & Governance



Asfiya Mariam
HIE Policy Analyst
Asfiya.Mariam@dc.gov

These updates are related to the policy and governance activities that support the DC Health Information Exchange. The HIE Policy Board and its four (4) subcommittees aim to develop and discuss recommendations on the secure and protected exchange of health information in the District.

HIE Policy Subcommittee Update

Chair(s): Mr. Justin Palmer

Mission and Purpose: Provides recommendations on the development of HIE policies and analyzes the impact of regulatory and legislative trends for the broad implementation and sustainability of secure, protected health information exchange.

Drafting Policy Guidance: In alignment with Goal #1 of their workplan, the subcommittee is working on draft guidance to as indicated in the HIE final rule. The development of this guidance includes a review of any existing requirements for HIE entities, current practices, and any items submitted by entities for registration and/or designation. Once developed, the subcommittee plans to present a recommendation to the HIE Policy Board. Draft guidance is centered around the following five (5) areas of the final rule*:

- § 8703.7(a): Identifying Authorized Users – *Discussed by the subcommittee in March*
- § 8702.2(f): Notice Regarding Cease of Operations
- § 8704.1(f): Reporting Unusual Findings to participating organizations
- § 8710.5: Consumer Education Requirements
- § 8711.6: Oversight and Enforcement

**Guidance regarding secondary use of data (as indicated in § 8703.4) will be drafted in collaboration with DHCF and other subject matter experts.*

Review of TEFCA: In alignment with Goal #2 of their workplan, the subcommittee is continuing to monitor various regulatory and legislative actions, such as Information Blocking, the implementation of Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA), and patient access. This activity is also aligned with a previously [approved recommendation by the Policy subcommittee in October 2019](#) to monitor the implementation of the Common Agreement (CA) and the QHIN Technical Framework, and to determine the impact on the DC HIE rule and the DC HIE. In March, the subcommittee heard from Nichole Sweeney at CRISP DC regarding TEFCA, its potential intersections with regional HIEs (like the DC HIE) for various use cases including public health, and CRISP DC's involvement in TEFCA.

HIE Community Resource Inventory Update

Chair(s): Ms. Luizilda de Oliveira and Mr. Khalil Hassam

Mission and Purpose: Develop recommendations for consideration by the HIE Policy Board that are related to the use, exchange, sustainability, and governance of community resource directory data through the District HIE infrastructure.

Reviewing the Draft Proposed Rule: The subcommittee is currently reviewing the draft text of the CRI proposed rule to inform key aspects of the rule. Recently, the subcommittee has discussed the following key items: 1) Requirements for Registered CRI Entities; 2) Minimum Categories for a Service Record on the CRI; 3) Requirements for a Publicly Accessible CRI Website; and 4) Annual Reporting and Audit Requirements for Designated CRI Entities.

Once all aspects of the proposed rule are reviewed, the subcommittee will work on items related to ongoing data maintenance, management, and governance.